

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125, please substitute the attached specification (41 pages) for the original PCT specification and translation and specification originally filed with this application.

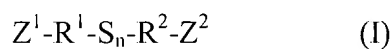
IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** claim 14.

Please **amend** claims 13, 15 and 23 as follows:

13. (Amended) A rubber composition vulcanizable with sulfur which comprises

- Subcs*
- a) at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of diene polymers, olefin/monomeric diene copolymers and halogenated isoolefin/para-alkylstyrene copolymers;
  - b) silica or mixture of silicas as filler;
  - c) at least one agent promoting linking between the silica and the polymer, said agent having the formula

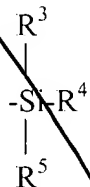


wherein

n is an integer between 2 and 8,

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>, which may be the same or different, are each selected from among substituted or unsubstituted alkylene groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms and of substituted or unsubstituted arylene groups having 6 to 12 carbon atoms,

*Subcs cont.*  
~~*B1*~~  
 $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$ , which may be the same or different, each represents a group



wherein  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$ , which may be the same or different, are each selected from among alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, phenyl groups, alkoxy groups having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and cycloalkoxy groups having 5 to 8 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  is an alkoxy or cycloalkoxy; and

d) at least one guanidine substituted by at least two groups, which may be the same or different, and each selected from among alkyl, aryl or aralkyl groups;

wherein the composition satisfies at least one of the following features (i) and/or (ii):

- (i) the composition comprises at least one diene polymer which has at least one amino terminal group of an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine which is bonded thereto at the end of the chain, the polymer then being devoid of alkoxy silane and silanol group; and
- (ii) the composition comprises at least one free aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine.

*Subcs*  
~~*B2*~~  
 15. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 13 wherein the filler comprises at least 40% by weight of silica.

*Subcs*  
~~*B3*~~  
 23. (Amended) A method of preparing a composition according to Claim 22 comprising in order preparing the polymer in solution, stopping the polymerization, adding the aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine to the solution, and stripping the solvent.